

Spring • 2010



KADIMA

SEATTLE'S PROGRESSIVE RECONSTRUCTIONIST
JEWISH COMMUNITY

wtp
UpDate

A look inside the Women's Torah Project

The Women's Torah is on track to be finished in 2010!

Read on for news about new scribes, plans for a First Readers class and fall celebration of the completed Women's Torah, and the results of last autumn's art auction.

We are approaching the conclusion of this remarkable journey and we need your donations more than ever to bring the Women's Torah to life.

If 200 supporters each give \$100, WTP fundraising will be over.

Please help us by sending your contributions to the Women's Torah Project at Kadima, 12353 8th Ave NE, Seattle WA 98125, or donate online at www.womenstorah.com/donate.

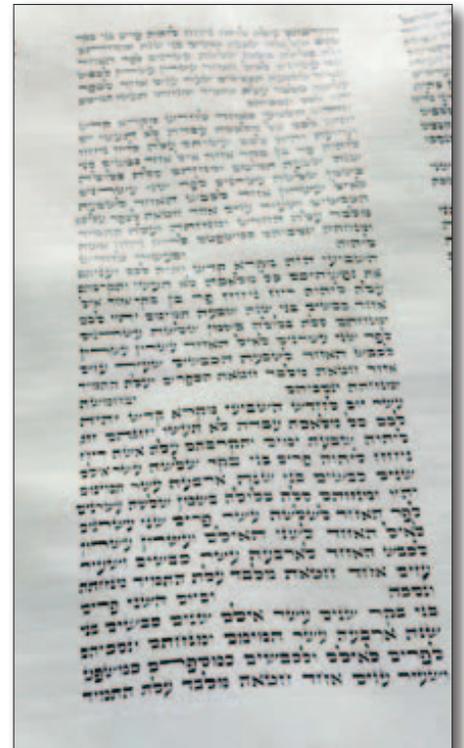
You can make this incredible dream a reality with your kind generosity. We thank you in advance for your continued support.

Art Auction Smashing Success

Our fall Art Auction was a great success, raising over \$3000 for the Women's Torah Project. Thank you to all our generous donors and bidders!

A Siyyum at Simchat Torah?

Completion of this groundbreaking scroll is in sight! We're aiming for a *siyyum* (celebration of this historic Torah) around Simchat Torah, 2010. We hope that many of the scribes, artists and supporters will be able to join us in Seattle for this wonderful event. Stay tuned as dates and details get worked out.



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First Readers

Be one of the first readers of the Women's Torah! The class will start in mid-April to study trope and issues of relevance to women and Torah, and to prepare for first Torah services. Each woman will define a meaningful role for herself: reading Torah, being called up for an aliyah, or participating in other parts of the first services. We will create meaningful roles for every woman in the group. Guest teachers and rabbis will be invited to help us prepare. Contact Kadima for more information about tuition and other details.

Round-the-world Fundraisers

Scribes, artists and friends of the WTP will be hosting project fundraisers around the world this spring. Want to host, co-host or join a party? Let us know! We'll give you everything you need to throw a great event and bring the Women's Torah Project to miraculous completion.

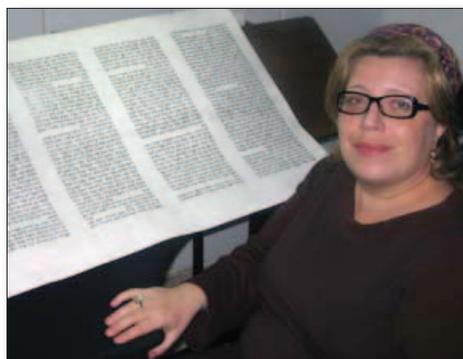
Meet Irma Penn, ST'M

On a cold day late last fall, Irma Penn of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada started writing *D'varim* (Deuteronomy) on her first panel for the Women's Torah.

"I am deeply honored and blessed to be part of the Women's Torah Project," said Irma, an accomplished artist, archivist, curator, educator, and photographer. "I thought it would be an excellent way for me to contribute of myself in an international way."

Read more about Irma and her work at

<http://www.womenstorah.com/irmapenn.html>



Meet Rabbi Hanna Klebansky

Rabbi Hanna Klebansky, who lives in Jerusalem, is the newest scribe to join the Women's Torah Project. She started her work in January of 2010. Hanna says, "One appealing aspect to me was the idea of practicing a sacred art to produce an object used by people for sacred affairs. Scribal arts also connected to my identity as a musician (my previous profession) and my deep, internal need to create."

Read more about Hanna and her work at

<http://www.womenstorah.com/hklebansky.html>

More and More Sofrot

In 2000, when Kadima initially entertained the idea of commissioning the first Torah to be inscribed by a woman, we spent well over a year searching for a woman with the required training. Since then, at least nine women have concluded the preparation required to call themselves ST'M. Seven of those sofrot have worked directly on the Women's Torah and one more is a mentor to one of our scribes. Kadima supports the efforts of Shoshana Gugenheim, our lead scribe, who envisions creating an institute to train women to become Torah scribes, as part of a center for the practice of traditional and contemporary Jewish crafts for the Jewish and wider community.